

NEWS FROM ED MARKEY

United States Congress

Massachusetts Seventh District

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MARKEY CALLS FOR BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION ON IRAQI INTELLIGENCE

Independent commission would investigate possible misuse of intelligence

WASHINGTON, DC-- Representative Edward Markey (D-MA), Co-Chair of the Bipartisan Taskforce on Nonproliferation and a Senior Member of the Energy and Commerce Committee and the Select Committee on Homeland Security, today joined Henry Waxman (D-CA), Ranking Member of the House Government Reform Committee and 15 other Democrats in introducing a resolution calling for an independent commission to investigate the possible misuse of intelligence leading up to the war in Iraq.

Rep Markey said, "There are essentially three scenarios that we now face. One, that the pre-war intelligence was correct, the weapons of mass destruction existed, and are now in the hands of al Qaeda, Baathist separatist groups, other terrorist groups, or in Syria. Two, that the pre-war intelligence was completely wrong – there was never any information regarding weapons of mass destruction and the intelligence community botched it right from the beginning. Or, three, that the intelligence was correct, but the Administration didn't like the answer and proceeded to manipulate the facts to match a predetermined policy outcome.

"None of these scenarios are good, but we need to know what happened. After hearing for months that the weapons existed and after months of searching, we have nothing. The credibility of the Administration and the United States is at stake, and we must learn the truth, through this independent commission."

The Commission would:

- Examine executive branch efforts to collect, assess, and interpret intelligence regarding the various threats posed by Iraq;
- Examine public representations made by executive branch officials regarding these threats;
- Examine the effectiveness of international collaborative efforts to collect, assess, and interpret information about these threats;
- Review the findings and conclusions of other congressional or executive branch investigations to build on such investigations; and
- Report to Congress within 18 months on its findings and conclusions, as well as make recommendations on measures to enhance the accuracy of intelligence and public representations regarding that intelligence in the future.

Rep. Markey concluded, "I voted for the resolution last October based on the information the Bush Administration shared with us. However, we now need to examine all of the intelligence that was used. That's why I join with Rep. Waxman in calling for the establishment of a commission to study this intelligence. The American people deserve to know the truth in this matter."